

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-01
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
DODE-00 /039 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:REGTRIBBIN:LA
APPROVED BY AF/C:LWALKER
-----022498 232103Z /62
R 231944Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, CT

SUBJECT: CAE AND THE PRESS

1. ALTHOUGH DEPARTMENT NEVER CHARACTERIZED QUANTON'S
RETURN FOR CONSULTATIONS AS "RECALL" WE ARE CONTENT WITH
PRESS ASSUMPTION TO THIS EFFECT, AND HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY
ALLUDED TO IT AS SUCH.

2. VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF THE AUGUST 17 BRIEFING CONCERN-
ING THE C.A.E. FOLLOWS QUOTE:

Q: IS THE U.S. PROTESTING THE JAILING OF REPORTERS IN THE
CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE?

A: WE HAVE MADE OUR POSITION KNOWN TO THE AUTHORITIES IN
THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE. OBVIOUSLY, WE ARE VERY CONCERN-
ED ABOUT SUCH ACTIONS. WE ARE EXAMINING WHAT DID HAPPEN,
AND WE ARE EXAMINING IT IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR OVERALL
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HUMAN RIGHTS POSITION AND IN LIGHT OF OUR BILATERAL
RELATIONS WITH THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE.

WE HAVE WORKED RATHER CONSISTENTLY IN THE CASE OF THE
AMERICAN CITIZEN, MR. RANDAL, AT THE TIME OF HIS DETENTION
AND WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE WELFARE AND
WORKED ACTIVELY FOR THE RELEASE OF MR. RANDAL

AND ABOUT THE WELFARE OF MR. GOLDSMITH WHO IS A BRITISH CITIZEN.

AMBASSADOR QUANTON FROM THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE IS RETURNING HERE AT THE END OF THIS WEEK FOR CONSULTATIONS, AND WE INTEND AT THAT TIME TO DISCUSS WITH HIM THE ISSUE OF THESE DETAINEES AS WELL AS OTHER MATTERS. I'M NOT PREPARED TO SPECULATE ABOUT WHAT MAY BE THE RESULT OF THOSE CONSULTATIONS.

Q: HOW LONG?

A: WELL, THE CONSULTATIONS ARE GOING TO BE AT THE END OF THIS WEEK, I THINK. WHAT'S THE DATE TODAY?

Q: THE 17TH.

A: THE 17TH? WELL, I THINK IT'S ROUGHLY THE 18TH OR 19TH THAT HE WILL BE HERE.

Q: HODDING, LET ME TAKE YOU BACK TO RESOLUTION 242.

A: LET ME MAKE SURE WE'RE THROUGH WITH THIS.

Q: YES. DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE AMBASSADOR WILL BE THERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR THE CORONATION OF THE --

A: I THINK I'D JUST HAVE TO SAY THAT I DON'T HAVE ANY ANSWER TO THAT RIGHT NOW. THE CONSULTATIONS, HOWEVER, IS GOING TO BE THE FIRST ORDER OF PRIORITY.

Q: ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, HODDING, ON CHINA --

Q: COULD WE HAVE ONE MORE ON THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE?

A: YES.

Q: DOES THE U.S. PLAN TO SEND A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CORONATION OF BOKASSA?

A: I DON'T KNOW OF OUR PLANS IN CONNECTION. LET ME BE MORE DEFINITE WE DO NOT HAVE FIRM PLANS. " END QUOTE.

3. CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO EFFECT THAT CONSULTATIONS TO DATE HAVE BEEN PRODUCTIVE AND WILL CONTINUE.

4. C.A.E. EMBASSY WASHINGTON FOLLOWED UP AUGUST 16
TELEPHONE CALL TO DESK WITH FORMAL PROTEST AUGUST 17, TO
"EXPRESS ITS STRONG EMOTION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CONCERNING THE TENDENTIOUS ARTICLES APPEARING IN THE
WASHINGTON POST OF AUGUST 16 AND 17, 1977 UNDER THE
SIGNATURE OF MR. JONATHAN RANDAL WHO RECENTLY HAD BEEN
ARRESTED IN BANGUI FOR AN IRREGULAR AND ILLEGAL STORY
AND WAS RELEASED BY AN ACT OF CLEMENCY ON THE PART OF HIS
IMPERIAL MAJESTY BOKASSA I. ARTICLES SUCH AS THOSE
DONE (BY RANDAL), BY THEIR NATURE ARE INJURIOUS TO THE
GOOD RELATIONS WHICH EXIST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.
ALSO, IN ANY CASE, THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMBASSY STRONGLY
PROTESTS THE INSULTS AIMED AT ITS EMPEROR, HIM BOKASSA I
AND THE CENTRAL AFRICAN PEOPLE. CHRISTOPHER
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARRESTS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, THE PRESS, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
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Message ID: d5c2de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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